

Fruit Growing in Utah Promises to Rival Great Returns From Mining

While Utah cannot perhaps show a return of \$25 an acre from her apple orchards, as can Hood River, or \$1,750 an acre on strawberries, as the San Fernando valley in California can boast of, she can boast of such prodigious returns from orchards and vineyards as to justify the making of the fruit industry paramount in the farm operations of the state. As showing the possibilities of fruit growing, it may be stated that well kept orchards have produced at the rate of \$500 and \$700 an acre and over, and peaches a like amount. Cherries have yielded growers \$200 an acre, and grapes a similar amount. Small fruits have exceeded these figures somewhat. Raspberries have made returns of \$300 an acre, while strawberries have returned \$200 to \$300 per acre, according to the size of the patch and the care given by the grower. The writer remembers visiting a number of Brigham City strawberry patches, seven years planted, that were yielding their owners \$200 an acre annually, and were apparently good for several years yet for the same amount. From these figures, and they are not isolated or uncommon instances, one can get a fair idea of what up-to-date fruit growing promises in Utah.

No branch of agriculture is capable of showing anything approaching these figures. Sugar beet growing is rightly classed as the most advanced and most profitable line of general farming practiced in the state. To make returns of \$120 an acre the farmer must produce more than twenty-six tons an acre, and every beet grower knows the amount of work he must put on the crop to obtain this yield. The best yields in the state this season do not exceed these figures to any great extent. And it is safe to say that if any kind of a fruit plantation, either of large or small fruits, were as assiduously and as scientifically cultivated as is the sugar beet crop, the returns from fruit would even exceed the figures quoted above.

The trouble in fruit growing hitherto in Utah has been in the general neglect which obtains in orchard practice.

It is but recently that people discovered the gold mine existing in the climate, soil and other conditions which peculiarly adapt Utah for successful fruit growing. The gold mine has existed from the early pioneer days, however, but very few recognized the possibilities of its growth and development.

The father of the writer had one of the earliest orchards in the state, and in the early '60s received \$125 for the fruit of one apple tree in a single season. Strawberries grown in the same orchard were sold for 50 cents a quart. In those days the market was limited, and there was little opportunity for its expansion, as without railroads transportation was slow and expensive. But conditions have changed, and orchard planting and fruit production have not kept pace with the demands of the market. Even at this late date only a limited number have recognized the changed conditions and can see the golden opportunities within the reach of the Utah fruit grower.

The question of a market is no longer a factor, as this is unlimited. Quality is the only desideratum that need concern the grower. Good fruit, free from insects and disease, cannot be produced fast enough to supply the demand. Buyers from the east and west come here every season to buy Utah fruit and cannot get enough of it. Local shippers are in the same quandary—they cannot fill their orders. William M. Roylance of Provo is one of the most extensive fruit men in the state, shipping considerably over 100 carloads this season. He was compelled to turn down orders because he could not get enough of the proper kind of fruit to ship. From a twenty years' acquaintance with the fruit business, considerable weight attaches to his statement when he says that if the grower will raise the right kind of fruits there will always be the very best market for unlimited quantities of them. In all his long experience Mr. Roylance says that there has never been a year when he could not get enough fruit to fill his orders, and the market is growing all the time.

It might be appropriately asked here: Why not grow the best exclusively, and more of it? If the market calls for quality and will pay for it, why do so many growers in growing something not wanted? It is suicidal policy to grow inferior fruit or varieties people do not want, as such practice will but stop consumption. Inferior fruit costs practically as much to produce as good fruit, and the Utah growers cannot afford to grow anything but the best fruits, otherwise he will lose the market.

Conditions Favor Fruit Industry.

The peculiarly favorable climatic, soil, irrigation and other conditions for fruit growing in this state, the unlimited markets which are opening upon every side for all kinds of fruit that can be grown here, and the very large returns that are as certain as the crops are themselves, warrant the belief that before another decade fruit growing will be the leading industry of the state, and for which she will be most noted in the commercial world. Great as are the mining, sheep and cattle industries, many who have studied the fruit growing possibilities of this state believe that, as a permanent money-making proposition, the industry will in the near future excel any of the others named, if not all combined. Though California is designated as the Golden State, she is now more widely known and celebrated for her immense crops of fruits and other enterprise bring as much money into the state and to the land owners as do the fruit farms. In all the conditions necessary for the production of first class apples, peaches, prunes, cherries, apricots, grapes and small fruits of every kind, Utah is excelled by California only in the longer fruiting season afforded in some sections of the latter, and the success of the fruit industry in the Golden State is a criterion for Utah fruit growers to keep in mind. California's great fruit trade has been built up, for the most part, in the last twenty years. Who knows to what heights this industry may reach in Utah in twenty years?

A very promising beginning has been made towards establishing this industry on a broad scale. Though the acreage now in fruit is prodigious, the most of the planting is yet young and several years from bearing, so that the present output of fruit gives but a faint idea of the proportions fruit shipments will assume in the very near future.

Fruit Growing in Counties of State. Of the twenty-seven counties of the state twenty-one are adapted to com-

mercial fruit growing, and the great part of these have access by railroad transportation to the markets of the world, so that if the kinds adapted to the varying climate of the north, central and southern sections of the state are as extensively planted as the importance of the industry justifies, the state will be not far from the lead in the entire inter-mountain country. Weber is thus far the most extensive fruit shipping county in the state. It has approximately 2,500 acres in orchard, vineyard and berry plantations. It supports twelve canneries. Some 250 straight cars of fruit were shipped this season, and fully as much more in local shipments. The shipments included five cars of grapes from the vineyard of E. G. McGriff, one of the most extensive orchardists in the state. The returns from his orchards aggregate \$10,000. He has fifty acres in orchard and more than this in grapes.

Other extensive growers and shippers in this county are the Wilson Brothers, Charles, Zeimer, W. G. Cragan, Enoch Farr and Bishop Geo. Smith. This industry is fast coming to the front in Weber, the county itself owning an extensive orchard, which is a model of good management.

Utah county comes next in importance with 6,000 acres in fruit. It has two canneries and shipped this season 250 cars of fruit, besides wagon loads without number, and large local shipments of berries. The C. F. Decker Co. shipped twenty cars and the William M. Roylance Co. 130. In this county are some of the largest orchards in the state. Thomas Chamberlain recently bought the Carey orchard of 200 acres. Other large orchards are owned by James G. Duffin, George Ekins & Bro., fifty acres each; E. D. Bedford & Sons, thirty-five acres; James Madison, thirty acres; Thomas Barratt, twenty-five acres; W. D. Vannoy, forty-four acres; William A. Hudson, thirty-five acres.

Boxelder county's famous peach orchards and berry patches cover over 3,000 acres. Two canneries carry on business here, and there were shipped in 1905 some 150 cars of fruit, which included peaches, prunes, apples and cherries. Hundreds of wagon loads of fruit are also taken to Cache and Rich counties from Brigham City. Young apple orchards have been extensively planted on the west side of the county in the Bear river district. Among Boxelder's large fruit growers are the A. H. Snow Orchard Co., twenty acres; Lars H. Larson, fifteen acres; R. L. Fishburn & Sons, ten acres; Knudsen Brothers, thirty acres; Wilson Brothers, twelve acres; William L. White and J. P. Olson, twelve acres each, all of Brigham; the Model Farm near Corinne, 200 acres. At Bear River City (Kamas) Hensel and Margot Mortensen have each fifteen acres in fruit, and are among the most successful apple growers in the state, clearing \$700 and \$550 an acre respectively in a single season.

Many young orchards have been planted recently in Davis county, and the acreage in fruit amounts to nearly 4,000. Half a dozen canneries are doing a flourishing business. About thirty carloads of fruit were shipped this year, half of which were apples. William H. Miller & Sons of Syracuse, have some sixty acres in apples, the largest grower of this one fruit in the state. Only part of their planting is in bearing. Elwood Brown of Centerville, has a six-acre cherry orchard, which returns him \$3,000 a year. Thomas J. Steed of Clearfield, has an orchard of forty-three acres just coming into bearing. On what was formerly called the "Sandridge," between Kayville and Ogden, many hundreds of acres have been set to fruit quite recently. It is considered one of the finest fruit-growing sections of the state.

Salt Lake has few large orchards, but nearly every farmer has an acre or two, and sometimes more, in fruits of various kinds, aggregating some 4,200 acres. Among the most prominent fruit growers are James M. Fisher & Sons, the Capson Brothers and John Noff of East Mill Creek; John Boyce and Henry E. Parry of Granite; L. Hemenway, Hiram Smith and John Woodbury of Granger; Joshua Terry, Peter N. Garif and Joseph M. Smith of Draper. All the fruit grown in the county is absorbed in the Salt Lake City market, none is shipped, and there are no canneries in the county. Fruit growing is more profitable in this county than in any other section of the state, and it is surprising the amount of good fruit land near the capital city still devoted to growing hay and grain. A Salt Lake county farmer, who admitted the great profits accruing from fruit growing, was asked why he didn't grow it himself. He replied that he was afraid if he did he would overstock the market.

The climate of Summit, Rich, Wasatch, Beaver and other counties is too rigorous to grow any but the hardier fruits, which are produced in very limited quantities. San Juan has but twenty-one acres in fruit, and there is no market, the growers say, for what is produced on this small area. The hardier fruits flourish in Sanpete, Sevier, Garfield, Iron and Carbon counties, but late spring frosts make the industry too uncertain in most sections.

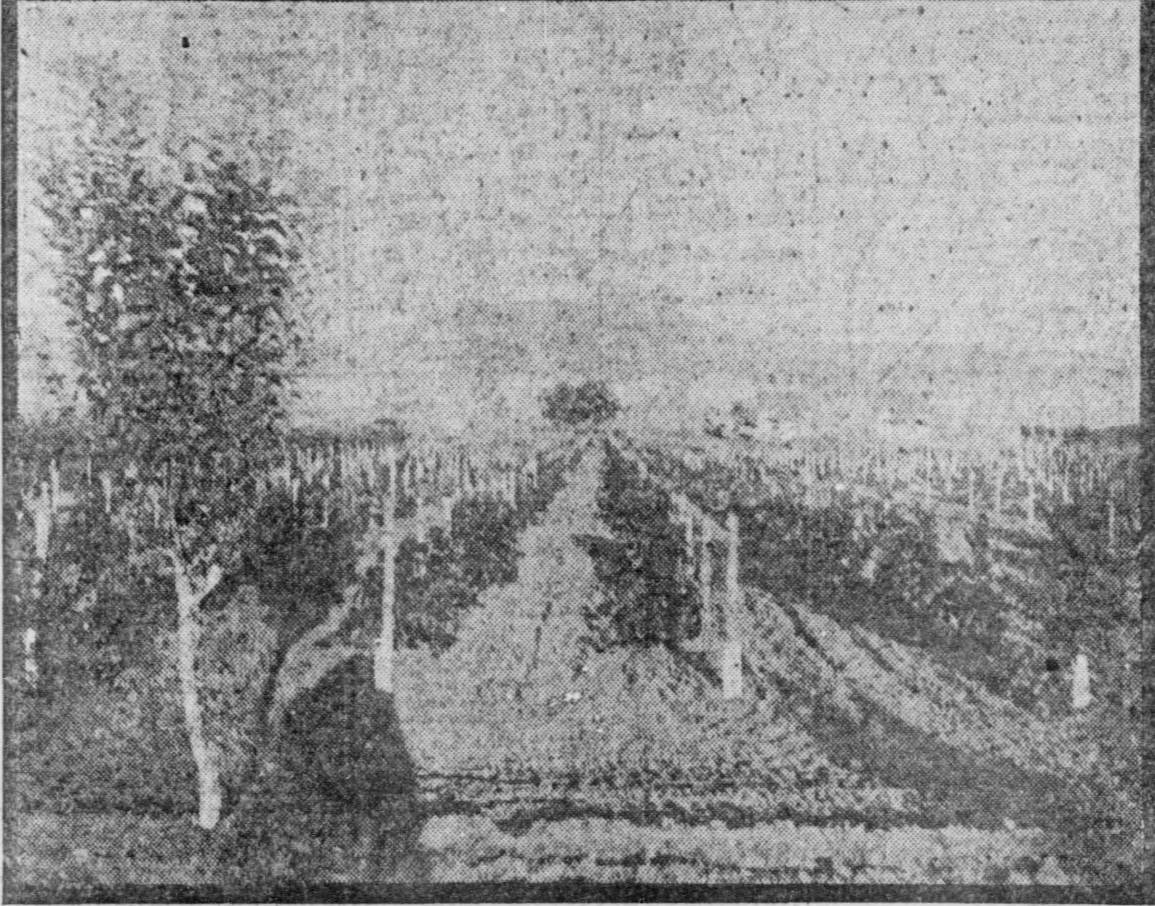
Morgan county has a few commercial orchards, 100 acres being devoted to cherries, peaches and small fruits. One company does a good business in putting up peaches and could handle cherries. The harder kinds of cherries thrive in and around Morgan City.

Exclusive of home acres and plantings of less than three acres in extent, Cache county has some 250 acres in fruit, mostly apples, peaches, plums and the bush fruits. In this county is located the State Agricultural college and experiment station. Professor E. D. Ball has been conducting a series of experiments combatting the codling moth, and has demonstrated that apples can be produced 90 per cent free from worms with two sprayings if done thoroughly and at the right time.

Professor Robert S. Northrup, horticulturist of the experiment station, has begun the planting of fruit trees on some of the experimental arid farms of the state to learn what success may be had in fruit raising without irrigation. In some counties of Utah grapes have been grown successfully without water and other fruits may also succeed to some extent.

In Juab, Millard and Tooele counties the limited irrigation streams account in some measure for the small area devoted to fruit growing in each, though

Thompson Seedless Raisin Grape—One Season's Growth. Southern Utah Experiment Station.



Vineyard Planted in 1904—Less Than One Season's Growth. Southern Utah Experiment Station.

all have splendid shipping facilities by rail.

Remoteness from market and the long haul necessary to reach the railroad are deterrent factors to commercial fruit growing in Kane, Garfield and Wayne counties, though the soil and other conditions are most favorable. The southern Utah export field farmers have set out 300 acres in fruit and make it pay, despite the remote market. Dried and cured fruits could be produced very advantageously in these far-off counties. If a first-class article is produced, transportation will not but little figure in this branch of the industry.

Emery gives every promise of becoming a great fruit-growing county. It has a splendid market in the coal mining camps of Carbon, and the industry is well advanced. When some acres are already planted to fruit. A large plateau of choice fruit land on the east border of the county, near Green River station, gives promise of soon becoming one of the finest fruit growing districts of the state. The soil and climate are all that could be desired, with plenty of water, and the Rio Grande Western railway passes through the county.

Grand county has a little under 300 acres in fruit trees, over 200 of which are in Moab. Among the leading fruit growers are O. W. Warner and J. P. Miller. Moab shows more enterprise in this industry than any other section of the state. Though having to travel thirty-five miles to the nearest railroad shipping point, over a very rough mountain road, some thirty-five to fifty carloads are shipped annually, despite these drawbacks. This year the crop was light, owing to late spring frosts, and only twenty-seven cars were shipped. The fruit is well graded, packed and neatly labeled for outside markets, much of it being shipped to Salt Lake City and Denver. An evaporating plant would pay here handsomely, as the fruit is unexcelled in the entire country.

They tell a story good enough to be true on one of Moab's fruit growers, which illustrates the wiles of the typical western grower. When, some years ago, Grand Junction was working up a great boom and inviting people from afar to come and see her wonderful resources, it was deemed necessary to have a fruit display. But as Grand Junction did not then grow fruit, one of the promoters, knowing of Moab's fame for fine fruit, hid himself over the mountains to that little burg and bought up all the fine fruit in sight. The next morning the display was taken entire, that of Moab's pioneer fruit grower, O. W. Warner; the promoter also took the veteran along to talk up the fruit, promising to pay him well for his aid in boosting Grand Junction, as the fruit was to be peddled off on the confiding visitors as western Colorado fruit. Everything went well for a while, until the old gentleman's loyalty asserted itself, and he gave the whole scheme away by telling the visitors that he grew the fruit himself over in Utah.

Utah county produces some of the finest flavored and colored apples in the west. Other fruits also flourish there, and as soon as shipping facilities are afforded, fruit growing will be greatly extended. Already some 300 acres are planted to fruits and the acreage is increasing annually.

Fruit in the Sunny South.

Washington county is noted for its mild, salubrious climate and is usually referred to as "Utah's Dixie." Semitropical fruits thrive with the luxur-

lance that characterizes California conditions. The European grapes, figs, pomegranates and almonds are as much at home on the Virgin river as in any part of the Golden state and can be grown as cheaply. Grape growing and raisin making are especially adapted for grape growing, and as the irrigating water is limited, the farmers of Washington county can find no crop which will return anything near the profit per acre that grapes and other suitable fruits will. The Dixie farmer will be wise, there-

fore, to let someone else raise hay, grain and other cheap crops. Hon. Thomas Judd, than whom no one has done more to promote advanced horticultural methods and practices in southern Utah, has one of the largest and most promising orchards and vineyards in the state at La Virkin, some twenty-five miles east of St. George. He has nearly sixty acres in grapes, which will soon be in full bearing. Heretofore only a small percentage of the fruit grown in Utah was handled in a business-like way; most of it was put upon the market in a haphaz-

ard manner and the consequent returns offered little encouragement to the grower. But with the introduction of better methods fruit growing has come to be recognized as a leading factor in the agricultural development of Utah, and the writer believes will in the near future become the first and most important industry of the state and one in which every section will contribute to that and in specialties suited to its own peculiar conditions.

JOSEPH H. PARRY, Ex-Secretary State Board of Horticulture.

Sugar Industry's Immense Returns

Beet sugar companies now operating in Utah and Idaho are capitalized for \$17,601,500. The companies are obligated to pay in dividends each year \$325,100. This does not take into account the Lewiston Sugar company, the Sanpete & Sevier Sugar company, and the Western Idaho Sugar company, with a total of \$4,000,000 capital. When these are added to the dividend payers at the customary rate of 6 per cent, the total amount of velvet distributed among the holders of these sugar stocks will be \$1,075,100 each year. At the rate at which factories are springing up and the aggregate capital increased this amount promises to be a bagatelle within the next five years.

Beet sugar making began in the inter-mountain country at Lehi, Utah, fifteen years ago. Since then it has grown rapidly. In recent years it has grown by leaps and bounds. Men have already accumulated vast fortunes from the industry and have laid the foundations for fortunes that stagger the imagination.

Sugar Trust Gets a Margin.

Not all the benefits of this great industry remain in Utah and Idaho, where the work is done and the sugar produced. The sugar trust of the east has its grip upon every beet field in the west and reaps its margin of the harvest each year. Sugar beet raising has overshadowed every other branch of farming in the two states named. In addition to the factories now in existence, a new one will be established in the Sanpete valley in Utah in the company year, and another at Payette, in Idaho, here seems to be no reasonable limit to the amount of beet sugar that can be produced in the semi-arid west.

The year just closed has been the greatest since beet sugar making was inaugurated in the west. This in spite of the blight that injured the crop in many places and almost totally destroyed it in other places. The acreage was much larger than ever before. The tonnage of beets, it is thought, will exceed 400,000. For these

beets the farmers are supposed to get on the average \$1.50 a ton. This, then, would be \$600,000. It is estimated among the sugar beet raisers of Utah and Idaho in 1905.

Where Silence Is Golden.

Men at the head of the sugar industry are extremely reticent in regard to all matters bearing on the profits of the industry. This is especially true since the sugar trust has become interested. It is known, of course, that the industry is tremendously profitable. Otherwise there would be no starting of new factories at great expense. Nor could such large dividends be paid if there were not a heavy balance on the right side of the ledger each year.

Beets have been known to yield as high as 17 per cent of their weight in sugar; 15 per cent is not considered uncommon. Cutting the yield far below these figures, it is not unreasonable to estimate the total output for the year at 100,000,000 pounds of beet sugar for Utah and Idaho for the year 1905.

The amount received for this sugar is also a matter largely of conjecture, as the bulk of it must be shipped to Missouri river points. Beet sugar is selling in Salt Lake City at \$5.00 per hundred-pound sack.

Future for the Beet Is Bright.

Future prospects are bright for the beet sugar industry. It is certain to spread over a much greater area in Utah and Idaho. It will spread into the neighboring states of Wyoming, Montana and Nevada. It is already well established in portions of Colorado. The possibilities of the industry are limited only by the facilities for disposing of the surplus output. In this respect it must meet the competition of the entire world.

Uneasiness prevails among the farmers in some sections because of the ravages of a mysterious blight among the beet fields the past year. This pest seems to have baffled the skill of the government experts up to the present time. It materially reduced the crop for 1905. It is expected that a remedy will be discovered in the coming year if the blight reappears.

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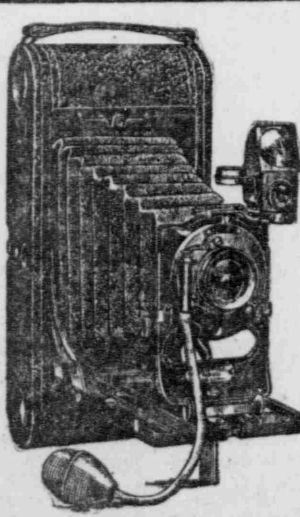
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